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President Obama Nominates Utah Governor Jon Huntsman Jr. as Ambassador to China

(New York, NY-May 21, 2009)--The Committee of 100 applauds President Obama's nomination of Utah Governor Jon Huntsman Jr. as ambassador to China. Mr. Huntsman's appreciation of the importance of the U.S.-China relationship, his knowledge and experience in Asia along with his expertise in political, trade and economic issues will be invaluable in building a stronger partnership between the U.S. and China at this critical juncture.

President Obama praised Huntsman's experience in the region and expertise in the Chinese language when nominating him for the ambassadorship. Obama has expressed his confidence that the appointment of Huntsman as ambassador "will launch a new era of partnership between our two nations that will advance our shared dreams of opportunity and security in America, in Asia, and around the world."

Huntsman has acknowledged the criticality of the Chinese-American relationship, stating in response to the nomination, that China is the "most important strategic bilateral relationship." He also indicated his desire for partnership, citing the Chinese aphorism "Together we work, together we progress."

As governor of Utah and chair of the Western Governor's Association, Governor Huntsman has actively promoted trade and cultural relations between U.S. states and Chinese provinces.

Prior to his governorship, Huntsman served as a White House staff assistant to President Reagan; as deputy assistant secretary of commerce for trade development and deputy assistant secretary of commerce for East Asian and Pacific Affairs under President George H.W. Bush; and as deputy U.S. trade representative and U.S. trade ambassador under President George W. Bush.

Governor Huntsman also served as U.S. Ambassador to Singapore during the final year of the George H.W. Bush administration.

A fluent speaker of Standard Mandarin Chinese, Governor Huntsman lived in Taiwan as a Mormon missionary. He and his wife have seven children, including an adopted daughter from China.

Committee of 100's Chairman John S. Chen comments, "In this very important time of the Sino-US relationship, we are gratified that someone like Gov. Huntsman who understands China will be our chief representative in Beijing. We, at the Committee of 100, look forward to working and progressing together in strengthening this important bi-lateral relationship with him as our Ambassador. We are pleased to express our support for Governor Huntsman's nomination."

Founded in 1989, the Committee of 100 is a national nonpartisan, non-profit membership organization comprised of prominent Chinese Americans in a broad range of professions. With their knowledge and experience, the Committee has committed to a dual mission: (1) encouraging constructive relations between the peoples of the U.S. and Greater China, and (2) encouraging the full participation of Chinese Americans in all aspects of American life. For more information, visit: www.committee100.org.